

Message Text

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60

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 /023 W
----- 033695

R 021522Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5973
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 6497

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: CU/ARTS: AREEA TOUR OF UNIVERSITY REPERTORY COMPANY

REF: JIDDA 3157 AND REPLIES FROM INFO POSTS;
STATE 136312, STATE A-3834 (NOTAL)

1. WE REGRET THAT CU/ARTS FUNDING LIMITATIONS FOR FY 77
"MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT CU WILL BE ABLE TO IMPLEMENT THE
PROPOSAL FOR A UNIVERSITY REPERTORY THEATRE GROUP", (STATE
A-3834) PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF STRONG INTEREST IN THIS
PRESENTATION BY LARGE NUMBER OF POSTS IN THE AREA.

2. POST DOES BELIEVE THAT THERE IS AN AUDIENCE FOR SUCH
A PRESENTATION IN ENGLISH IN JIDDA, RIYADH, AND DHAHRAN.
EXPERINCE DURING PAST YEAR HAS SHOWN LARGE PROPORTION
PRIMARY AUDIENCE MEMBERS DO SPEAK ENGLISH AND
OUR SECONDARY AUDIENCE CONTAINS HIGH PROPORTION MIDDLE-
LEVEL MOVERS AND SHAKERS WHO ARE ENGLISH SPEAKING AND
US EDUCATED. ATTENDANCE AT AMATEUR THEATRICAL PRO-
DUCTIONS IN JIDDA OVER PAST TWO YEARS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS ALSO
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BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING. GIVEN STRONG INTEREST IN

PROJECT BY OTHER POSTS IN AREA, INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE IDEA HAS OVERALL ACCEPTABILITY AND STRONG CHANCES FOR SUCCESS IN AREA AS A WHOLE.

3. GIVEN RIGHT CHOICE OF PLAYS - IN BOTH CONTENT AND IN REQUIRED NUMBERS OF PLAYERS - THE DRAMA GROUP NEED NOT BE LARGE AND ACCOMPANYING EQUIPMENT COULD BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM. APPROPRIATE AUDITORIA ARE AVAILABLE, INCLUDING UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM AND MINING IN DHAHRAN - AN AREA OF POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING WHICH WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO IMPLEMENT TO DATE DUE TO LACK OF USIS PRESENCE THERE.

4. WE SUSPECT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ADVENTUROUS, TALENTED, AND EAGER DRAMA GROUPS IN US UNIVERSITIES WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SUCH A TOUR AND ALSO SUSPECT THAT A NUMBER OF SPONSORING POSTS WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE HOUSING IN EMBASSY RESIDENCES, LEAVING TRANSPORTATION AS MAIN COST FACTOR.

5. WE RECALL THAT A NATIONAL UNIVERSITY DRAMA GROUP COMPETITION IS HELD EACH YEAR IN WASHINGTON AND BELIEVE THAT THE WASHINGTON-BASED ORGANIZATION FOR THIS COMPETITION MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO CU/ARTS IN IDENTIFYING TROUPES THAT WOULD BE QUALIFIED AND INTERESTED.
HORAN

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